

FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2006
Courtyard Marriott
Tacoma, WA

Board members present: Chairman Pati Otley, Mr. Dick Marzano, Mr. Cliff Benson, Mr. Ross Kelley, Mr. Don Lemmons, Mr. Mark Asmundson, Ms. Rebecca Francik, and Mr. Andrew Johnsen. Mr. John Gray was in attendance.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Pati Otley opened the meeting with introductions, welcoming remarks, and review the agenda for the meeting.

MINUTES: Mr. Mark Asmundson moved and Mr. Kelley seconded the motion to adopt the January 17 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

FMSIB BUDGET: Director Schmidt discussed the status of the biennial budget. Projects that were advanced with funds from the 2005 appropriation were reviewed as well as the Union Pacific Account activity.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director reviewed a spreadsheet recapping funding for all of the FMSIB projects and the office work plan for the next few months.

Mr. Mark Asmundson requested a legend be added to the project funding spreadsheet explaining the limitations on utilization of funds.

The BNSF funds that had been advanced to Phase 1 of the SR 519 project have now been placed in the FMSIB account until a resolution has been found with the project. Bids for D Street in Tacoma came in over estimate and the Governor asked TIB and FMSIB to assist in completing the funding package. The 228th Street project in Kent has encountered a design dispute which will need to be resolved between the city and the railroad.

The Director reported on the TriCities Freight Conference and discussed the new Railex project in Wallula.

The Board discussed the growing concern that there will be legislation dealing with air emissions that will be a problem for ships, ports, trucks and railroads to comply. A follow-up meeting will focus on this issue.

The proposed redesign of the SR 519 project has met with controversy. The Transportation Commission held a hearing to better understand the concerns of the freight community. Mr. Andrew Johnsen suggested that it was an issue for the Board and the broader freight constituency to pursue as a priority. Legislation requiring urban jurisdictions to consider certain things when making land use decisions may be necessary.

Mr. Benson moved and Mr. Asmundson seconded the motion to present a career achievement award to Peter Beaulieu for his work on freight mobility issues for the last 12 years.

MOTION CARRIED

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Chair Pati Otley reported on the FAST meetings she attended. Mr. Mark Asmundson reported that the Outreach Committee needed additional members and Mr. Cliff Benson reported on the RTID discussions at PSRC.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

The Director reviewed the freight legislation and budget items passed by the 2006 legislature and Mr. Johnsen reported on the train speed bill and the Milwaukee Road legislation the railroads are supporting. Mr. Lemmons described the truck weight bill and the biodiesel legislation. Mr. Kelley explained the importance of the Geiger Spur project to Spokane County.

PROJECT UPDATE:

The Transportation Performance Audit Board was eliminated in the 2006 budget so the planned FMSIB presentation has been cancelled.

Director Schmidt discussed conversations with the House and Senate staff on communicating when a project no longer benefits freight. Their suggestion for FMSIB is to monitor project development and to do diligence in corresponding with the House and Senate Committees advising them when projects are no longer addressing the freight need for which they were selected.

The Director will be meeting with all project sponsors to determine their status and if a reshuffling of priority order should be recommended to the Board. Mr. John Gray stated that the review should focus on funding as well as project priority and whether the rationale for the project may have changed.

CALL FOR PROJECTS:

In the absence of Mr. Jim Toomey, Director Schmidt reported on the work of the Project Selection Committee.

2007-2009 BUDGET REQUEST:

Doug Vaugh and Mike Kashmar from WSDOT presented the 2007-09 Budget rules and timeline for budget.

The Director reviewed the draft 2007-09 FMSIB Strategic Plan and compared it to the 2005-07 Plan and asked the Board to think about agency priorities to discuss at the May 18, 2006 budget workshop.

Mr. Benson moved and Mr. Kelley seconded the motion to submit the agency strategic plan as written incorporating any language corrections requested by Board members in the next week.

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Dick Dorsett and Mr. Mike Zachary of the Port of Tacoma reviewed the projects seen on the morning tour.

Lt. Schneider of Fort Lewis discussed the traffic issues at the base if there is a massive mobilization.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The Board discussed when and where they would hold future meetings around the state. Future meetings will be held on May 18 & 19 – Bellingham; June 16 - SeaTac area; and September 15 - Pasco.

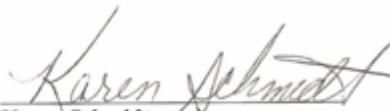
Mr. Marzano moved and Mr. Lemmons seconded the motion to adopt the proposed meeting schedule.

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED 1:55 PM.



Pati Otley, Chair



Attest: Karen Schmidt
Executive Director